

Appln No. 09/695,900
Amdt date February 15, 2007
Reply to Office action of January 19, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-15, 17-31, and 33 are currently pending in this application. Claims 12 and 30 have been amended. In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of claims 10-15, 17-31, and 33 are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is objected due to an informality. The Examiner, however, indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection. Claim 12 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, claim 12 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 13 is also in condition for allowance because it depends on allowable claim 12, and for the additional limitations that it contains.

The Examiner indicated that claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 30 has now been rewritten in independent format to include all of the limitations of base claim 26. Accordingly, claim 30 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 10, 14, 15, 21, and 23-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,845) in view of Macrae et al (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0005463). Claims 22 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl in view of Macrae and further in view of Proehl (U.S. Publication No. 2003/30131356). Claims 11, 17-20, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wistendahl in view of Macrae and further in view of Dunn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,648,824). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Examiner contends that Wistendahl teaches all of the limitations of claim 10, except that "Wistendahl does not disclose displaying an interactive content icon responsive to the determination that the video object is viewable during the particular shot, the icon for indicating that the object has hyperlinked information." (Office action, p. 5, par. 2). However, she relies on Macrae to make up for this deficiency.

Macrae is directed to an interactive television system in which a URL representing an Internet web site is encoded in a television signal. (See, Abstract). Macrae discloses that an icon

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may be displayed to inform a viewer of the Internet data that accompanies the television signal. However, nothing in Macrae teaches or suggests that the display of this icon is "responsive to the determination by the receiver that the video object is viewable during the particular shot," as is required by claim 10. In fact, the display of the icon in Macrae is not dependent on the visibility of any particular video object. Instead, if Internet data accompanies the television signal, the icon will be displayed. (See, par. 0025). This is because the Internet information that is provided by Macrae's system is program specific, and not object specific. (See, e.g. 0027). (Emphasis added). That is, the Internet information in Macrae's system is relevant to the entire television program, and is not hyperlinked to specific video objects displayed during the television program. Thus, Macrae has no need to make determinations of the visibility of the video objects before the icon is displayed. As long as the television program has Internet information associated with it, the icon will be displayed, and in fact, may be displayed for the whole duration of a television program. (See, par. 0025). Accordingly, claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 further requires "visually highlighting the video object during the particular shot." The Examiner relies on the disclosure in Wistendahl on column 8, lines 40-54, to contend that it discloses that "the object may be highlighted when a pointer of a pointing device is positioned over the hot spot." (Office action, p. 3, first par.). However, Applicant was unable to find such disclosure in this or other sections of Wistendahl. The section cited by the Examiner simply teaches using the pointer to click on a hot spot, and providing a response programmed by the hyperlink that is established for that hot spot. Such response may be, for example, providing additional information on the clicked object. Accordingly, claim 10 is also in condition for allowance for this additional limitation.

Independent claim 26 includes limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 10 which make claim 10 allowable. Accordingly, claim 26 is also in condition for allowance.

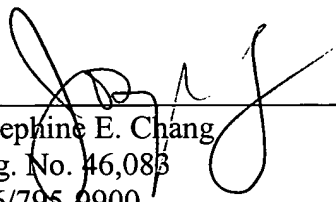
Claims 11, 14-15, 17-25, 27-28, 31, and 33 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations that they contain.

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Respectfully submitted,
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